the change in slope between a vector connecting said preceding matched point to said first matched point to a vector connecting said first matched point to said following matched point.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein when said first matched point in the input path is a point on an input path segment that lies between two successive points of inflection, said first matched point is determined as the point that is within a predetermined maximum distance of the point on said input path segment that is closest to said first key, where a local maximum value is attained in the sum of the absolute values of the rates of change of the rates of change of the two-dimensional coordinates in the recorded sequence of locations.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein said parameter is determined as a function of a comparison between:

the ratio of the sum of the distance from said preceding key to said first key plus the distance from said first key to said following key, divided by the distance from said preceding key to said following key, and

the ratio of the length of the trajectory along the input path from said preceding matched point to said following matched point, divided by the straight-line distance from said preceding matched point to said followed matching point.

22. The method of claim 8, wherein, in calculating said function of said distances, an adjustment is made to the magnitude of the distance from a first key associated with a letter in a candidate word to a first matched point in the input path with which said first key is matched, wherein said adjustment is calculated based on one or more parameters determined with respect to a second key associated with an adjacent letter in the candidate word and a second matched point in the input path with which said second key is matched.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein one of said parameters is determined as a function of a comparison of the slope of a line between said first key and said second key to the slope of a line between said first matched input path point and said second matched input path point.

24. The method of claim 22, further comprising:

calculating the value of one or more of said parameters for each pair of said first and second keys wherein said first and second keys are associated with adjacent letters in said candidate word;

determining one or more parameter values as a function of the calculated values; and

adjusting said numerical score of said candidate word as a function of one or more of said determined parameter values.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein one of said parameters is determined as a function of a comparison of the distance along a straight line between said first matched input path point and said second matched input path point to the distance along the actual input path between said first matched input path point and said second matched input path point.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising reducing the magnitude of the adjustment made with respect to said determined parameter when said segment of said input path between said first matched input path point and said second matched input path point lies within a determined maximum threshold distance of the upper boundary of said displayed keyboard.

27. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

determining one or more penalty amounts that are included in the calculation of said function when one or more of said designated points of inflection is not determined as a matching point for any key associated with a letter of the compared word; and

determining one or more penalty amounts that are included in the calculation of said function for each instance in which no corresponding matching point is determined for one or more keys associated with letters of the compared word.

28. The method of claim 27, further comprising:

calculating and recording the average total penalty amount assessed against words generated as text to be input;

adjusting the magnitude of the effect of assessed penalty amounts on the calculation of said first numerical score by one or more calculations based on the value of said average total penalty amount.

29. The method of claim 28, further comprising:

classifying each input path as belonging to one of two or more classes of input paths;

calculating said average total penalty amounts separately for each class of input path;

adjusting the magnitude of the effect of assessed penalty amounts on the calculation of said first numerical score for words matched to an input path by one or more calculations based on the value of said average total penalty amount for the class to which said input path belongs.

30. The method of claim 27, wherein:

said database includes a set of one or more reference sequences of one or more letters;

each said reference sequence of one or more letters is associated with one or more mapped sequences of one or more letters;

each said associated mapped sequence of one or more letters comprises a sequence of letters that may appear in place of the sequence of letters of its associated reference sequence to form a misspelled version of a word in the database which includes said reference sequence of letters in its correct spelling;

when said first or second penalty amount is determined to be included in calculating the numerical score of said candidate word, and wherein said candidate word includes one or more of said reference sequences in its correct spelling, each of the one or more associated mapped sequences of letters is substituted for said included reference sequence of letters to form one or more alternate candidate words which are compared to said input path, and wherein when said first numerical score determined for one of said one or more alternate candidate words results in a higher ranking than said first numerical score determined for said original candidate word, the first numerical score determined for the original candidate word is replaced with the